

AG/ENERGY COMMITTEE PROJECTS

MANAGED INTENSIVE GRAZING NETWORK

Strategy Code: I B 1

Description of Opportunity

Livestock farming has been evolving rapidly in recent years due to significant increases in general operating expenses and capital investment required during a period of stagnant or decreasing payments for products. Where possible, farmers need to consider adapting to low input, low capital grazing operations in order to help maintain viability. In addition, soils in Lumberjack's ten-county northeastern region are diverse in origin and many are highly erodible. Also, a vast quantity of groundwater and surface water present within the area is susceptible to nitrate, pesticide and volatile organic compound contamination.

Benefits Expected

Interested landowners will be provided educational opportunities as well as on-site technical assistance to plan and implement Managed Intensive Grazing. Promoting and establishing productive grazing based farms will help bolster the local farm economy, protect highly erodible soils, and protect vulnerable groundwater and surface water resources.

Status

On September 21, 2005, Lumberjack submitted two Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative grant applications to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The "Category 1 - Technical Service Provider" application request was for \$70,000 and the "Category 2 - Education & Demonstration" application request was for \$30,000. Council will be notified by October 28, 2005 whether or not the grant applications were accepted.

FINANCE/CONTRACTING COMMITTEE

The Finance/Contracting Committee is responsible for developing draft council agreements and contracts. In addition, the committee reviews all grants, project budgets, and financial statements, and assists with the audit process.

FORESTRY COMMITTEE PROJECTS

FOREST HABITAT TYPING

Strategy Code: III C 1

Description of Opportunity

Ground cover species have been recognized as viable indicators of potential forest site productivity since the early 1980's. Piggy-backing forest habitat typing during the collection of productivity data on permanently established Forest Inventory and Analysis plots will give forest managers greater insight for managing the state's forest resources.

Benefits Expected

Through habitat typing data, foresters will have an additional tool to utilize in planning and managing the health, diversity and productivity of the forestry resource. Data will be collected on approximately twenty-five plots throughout Wisconsin during 2006.

Status

A 2006 project funding request of \$1,875 was submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in September of 2005.

FOREST HEALTH MONITORING ~ (P3)

Strategy Code: III C 2

Description of Opportunity

Lumberjack RC&D has contracted with the US Forest Service since 1994 to establish Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) plots throughout Wisconsin. These plots help monitor the health of the state's forest resource by assessing damage caused by insects such as the gypsy moth and various tree diseases.

Benefits Expected

By establishing and measuring permanent FHM plots, forest managers and scientists are able to better identify and quantify factors influencing our forests, work toward a better understanding of current environmental conditions, and determine what actions we can take to improve the environment for future generations. Data will be collected on approximately thirty-five plots throughout Wisconsin during 2006.



Status

Since 1994, Lumberjack has been able to hire employees to establish and collect data on FHM plots. A funding level of \$15,800 was proposed in August 2005 for the 2006 Challenge Cost-Share Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service.

FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS ~ P2

Strategy Code: III C 2

Description of Opportunity

The U.S. Forest Service works in cooperation with state foresters across the country to establish and maintain permanent Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plots. Historically, forest inventory plots were measured every 10 to 15 years to provide customers with information regarding land-use change, forest health, vegetative changes, and quality and volume of forest products. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) determined a need to collect plot data on an annual basis.



Benefits Expected

Collecting plot data annually will improve the quality and timeliness of resource information to aid in developing sound management recommendations. Lumberjack RC&D was able to establish several permanent field forester positions in rural areas of Wisconsin. Data will be collected on approximately 640 plots throughout Wisconsin during 2006.

Status

Lumberjack RC&D is responsible for administering the FIA program for the entire State of Wisconsin. Lumberjack hired a project supervisor in November of 1999. Currently, Lumberjack has five field foresters located in three offices throughout the state. On August 31, 2004, the new five-year FIA Intensification Contract was awarded to Lumberjack RC&D by the DNR. A 2006 project funding request for \$441,400 was submitted to the DNR in September of 2005.

LAKE STATES PRESCRIBED BURNING CONFERENCE

Strategy Code: III F 1

Description of Opportunity

The use of fire as a forest management tool has long been misunderstood, and in many cases, avoided. Prescribed burning is an excellent way to promote healthy new stands of trees, create biodiversity, and greatly reduce the fuel load for potential wildfires. Many land managers, foresters, and landowners either lack the knowledge to administer a prescribed burn, or have been misinformed about what is involved in prescribed burning.

Benefits Expected

A three-day conference on prescribed burning in the Lakes States area will provide participants with the basics of preparing for a prescribed burn, the mechanics of conducting a burn, and an opportunity to view the outcome of several past prescribed burns. In addition, the opportunity will exist for participants to share their experiences with peers from various agencies who conduct prescribed burns.

Status

In July of 2003, Lumberjack received a \$23,000 U.S. Forest Service grant award to establish and conduct a conference. On August 29, 2005, a revised contractual services agreement was signed with Renewable Resource Solutions, L.L.C. The consultant is responsible for developing and conducting the conference. Council received a 12-month grant extension by the U.S. Forest Service on September 8, 2005, extending the project deadline to September 30, 2006.

MOBILE MAPLE SYRUP EVAPORATOR

Strategy Code: 1 B 1

Description of Opportunity

The Lumberjack RC&D area is comprised of approximately 73 percent forestland; and 15 percent cropland and pastureland. The number of active farms has steadily declined over the past several decades, while acreage under forest cover has increased. Many area farmers and rural forest landowners are looking for ways to increase their income through product diversification.

Benefits Expected

A mobile maple syrup evaporation unit will be developed and used for demonstration purposes at area county events such as county fairs and forest management seminars. Information will be provided to local farmers and forest landowners on an income diversification opportunity. Consumer awareness will be increased to help expand the market for a sustainable forest product.

Status

Council approved the project contingent upon available funding on January 29, 2004. A funding request for \$2500 to assist with project development has been included as a line item in the Fiscal Year 2006 NRCS/Lumberjack RC&D Cooperative Agreement. Vilas County UW-Extension Agent John Gartner, formally from Forest County, proposed the project. On October 12, 2005, council committee members from Lincoln County formally took over project oversight and development responsibility.

OZONE PROJECT

Strategy Code: III C 2

Description of Opportunity

There is a need for long-term assessment of the effects of ozone and other air pollutants on the health of the state's forest resource.

Benefits Expected

By monitoring permanent Ozone plots, the data collected will assist forest managers and scientists to better identify and quantify the factors influencing our forests, work toward a better understanding of current environmental conditions, and determine what actions we can take to improve the environment for future generations. Monitoring will

take place at thirty-one sites in southern Wisconsin and twenty-six sites in northern Illinois during 2006.

Status

Lumberjack RC&D has contracted with the US Forest Service since 2004 to monitor Ozone plots in Wisconsin. A 2006 project funding request for \$32,000 was submitted to the U.S. Forest Service in August of 2005.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AWARDS ~ 2006

Strategy Code: III C 1

Description of Opportunity

Lumberjack has been in existence since 1968 and has developed long-term relationships with numerous agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals who promote sustainable forest management. In 2003, Lumberjack's forestry committee established a "Sustainable Forestry Awards Program" to recognize the important contributions made to sustainable forestry and the RC&D program within the State of Wisconsin.

Benefits Expected

This awards program will help raise public awareness of existing and new partnerships among various entities that support sustainable forest management in Wisconsin. This program will also promote, celebrate, and highlight individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, and others who support the RC&D program.

Status

The 2005 forestry awards were presented on October 12, 2005 at the Full Council Meeting. A motion to continue the project for 2006 was approved on October 12, 2005 contingent upon available funding. A funding request for \$500 to assist with project development has been included as a line item in the Fiscal Year 2006 NRCS/Lumberjack RC&D Cooperative Agreement.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROJECT

Strategy Code: III D 2

Description of Opportunity

There is the need for technical assistance to encourage sustainable forest management for the purpose of promoting sustainable rural economic development, provide technology transfer among state forestry specialists, and assist the WoodLinks program.

Benefits Expected

Projected outcomes of this project include conducting workshops, training sessions, and seminars to improve forest product knowledge of field foresters and representatives from the forest products industry. This grant will also provide the resources to address the technical training needs of state forestry staff. In addition,

state forestry specialists will be able to provide assistance in the development and expansion of the WoodLinks program in Wisconsin.

Status

In August of 2003, Lumberjack RC&D received a U.S. Forest Service grant award of \$19,750 to complete the project tasks. On September 27, 2005, a 12-month grant extension request was approved by the Forest Service extending the project deadline to September 30, 2006.

PERSONNEL/SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

EMPLOYEE ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE

The Personnel/Special Events Committee is responsible for developing personnel policies and procedures, supervising council employees, performing employee evaluations, and providing direction on human resource, health, and safety issues, as well as special events.

RECREATION-TOURISM/RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

SHORELAND RESTORATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Strategy Code: IV A 1

Description of Opportunity

Shoreline erosion often does not occur just from natural wind or wave action, or boat traffic. Runoff from developed landscapes often causes severe erosion as well as contributes excessive nutrients to lakes and rivers. Over the past several years Marinette and Oconto counties have both provided funding for the creation of shoreline restoration programs. Through planning and implementation assistance provided several successful restoration projects have been completed. Unfortunately, informational meetings held to create further interest among landowners have drawn limited attendance.

Benefits Expected

This project is based on the utilization of successful shoreline restoration sites to create public interest in the shoreline restoration program. As part of this project, a brochure would be developed for local distribution providing project site locations, site information, and contact information for each respective county. Restored areas for public viewing would require signs providing detailed information about the site. This project success would be monitored by the number of contacts made by landowners interested in shoreline restoration and funding.

Status

Council approved the project contingent upon available funding on July 28, 2004. On August 1, 2005, Lumberjack submitted a \$3,000 Small-scale Lake Management Grant Program application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Additionally, the council's contracted grant writer has completed an \$8,600 funding proposal for the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. This grant application will be reviewed by the council and submitted by November 4, 2005.

COUNCIL OFFICE ASSISTANCE

The RC&D Coordinator is a permanent full-time employee of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service with a work year based on 2088 hours or 261 days. The Project Assistant/Bookkeeper is a permanent part-time Council employee working four days per week resulting in 1672 hours or 209 days of assistance.

The maximum number of days available for council assistance at the current office staffing level has been divided into the following categories: 1) Council Support; 2) Project Implementation; 3) Training/Professional Development; 4) Administration; and 5) Annual Leave/Holidays.

“Council Support” activities include assisting in the development of the Area Plan and annual Plan of Work, providing technical assistance to council committees, council capacity development, and preparation for Council meetings. Also included is the development of working relationships with other organizations by attending meetings of county Land & Water Conservation Committees, state, regional, and national RC&D associations, Department of Natural Resources, and various regional planning commissions. This time is not spent directly on project activities, but will hopefully provide future project opportunities.

“Projects Implementation” is an estimate of time spent on research, planning, coordinating, implementing, and progress reporting for council-approved projects.

“Training/Professional Development” includes training required by NRCS as well as development opportunities provided by partners and other outside organizations.

“Administration” includes time for administrative details such as work planning, office management, time reporting, mail handling, reading, and project administration.

“Annual Leave/Holidays” is the total amount vacation and holiday leave available to per year. (“Sick Leave” use varies dramatically from year to year and was not included in the table below.)

OFFICE ASSISTANCE		
ACTIVITY	DAYS	%
Council Support	220	47
Project Implementation	130	28
Training/Professional Development	10	2
Administration	50	10
Annual Leave/Holidays	60	13
Total	470	100%

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT/SIGNATURE PAGE

Lumberjack RC&D Council, Inc. agrees that the RC&D Program will be conducted in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A and B) that provide that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial (or technical) assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof."

Lumberjack RC&D Council, Inc. agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug-free workplace, and responsibilities for nonprocurement, suspension, debarment, and State review.

Lumberjack RC&D Council, Inc. hereby adopts this Plan of Work and agrees to use effectively the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to realize the goals and objectives outlined herein.

Name: Lumberjack RC&D Council, Inc.
State: Wisconsin

By:

Erhard Huettl, Council President

Date

Attest:

Yvonne Van Pembroke, Council Secretary

Date

This action authorized at an official meeting of the Lumberjack RC&D Council, Inc. on October 12, 2005.

U.S. Department of Agriculture ~ Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Acknowledged By:

Pat Leavenworth, State Conservationist

Date